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Agenda item 102

Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects

Report of the First Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Archil **Gheghechkori** (Georgia)

I. Introduction

1. The item entitled "Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects" was included in the provisional agenda of the sixty-sixth session of the General Assembly in accordance with Assembly resolution 65/89 of 8 December 2010.

2. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 16 September 2011, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include the item in its agenda and to allocate it to the First Committee.

3. At its 3rd meeting, on 3 October 2011, the First Committee decided to hold a general debate on all disarmament and international security items allocated to it, namely, items 87 to 106. The general debate on those items was held at the 3rd to 9th meetings, from 3 to 7 and on 10 and 11 October (see A/C.1/66/PV.3-9). The Committee also held 11 meetings, from 12 to 14, from 17 to 21 and on 24 and 25 October, for an exchange of views with the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs and other high-level officials, as well as panel discussions with independent experts and follow-up to resolutions and decisions adopted at previous sessions (see A/C.1/66/PV.10-20). Thematic discussions on the items were held, and draft resolutions were introduced and considered, at the 10th to 20th meetings, from 12 to 14, from 17 to 21 and on 24 and 25 October (see A/C.1/66/PV.10-20). Action on all draft resolutions and decisions was taken at the 21st to 24th meetings, from 26 to 28th and on 31 October (see A/C.1/66/PV.21-24).

4. No documents were submitted for consideration under this item.

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II. Consideration of draft resolution A/C.1/66/L.17

5. At the 15th meeting, on 18 October, the representative of Sweden, on behalf of Bulgaria and Sweden, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects" (A/C.1/66/L.17).

6. At the 22nd meeting, on 27 October, the Secretary of the Committee made a statement on behalf of the Secretary-General concerning the financial implications of draft resolution A/C.1/66/L.17.

7. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.1/66/L.17 without a vote (see para. 8).

III. Recommendation of the First Committee

8. The First Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 65/89 of 8 December 2010,

Recalling with satisfaction the adoption and the entry into force of the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects[1] and its amended article 1,[2] the Protocol on Non-Detectable Fragments (Protocol I),[1] the Protocol on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Mines, Booby Traps and Other Devices (Protocol II)[1] and its amended version,[3] the Protocol on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Incendiary Weapons (Protocol III),[1] the Protocol on Blinding Laser Weapons (Protocol IV)[4] and the Protocol on Explosive Remnants of War (Protocol V),[5]

Welcoming the results of the Third Review Conference of the High Contracting Parties to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects, held in Geneva from 7 to 17 November 2006,

Welcoming also the results of the 2010 Meeting of the High Contracting Parties to the Convention, held in Geneva on 25 and 26 November 2010,

Welcoming further the results of the Twelfth Annual Conference of the High Contracting Parties to Amended Protocol II, held in Geneva on 24 November 2010,

Welcoming the results of the Fourth Conference of the High Contracting Parties to Protocol V, held in Geneva on 22 and 23 November 2010,

Recalling the role played by the International Committee of the Red Cross in the elaboration of the Convention and the Protocols thereto, and welcoming the particular efforts of various international, non-governmental and other organizations in raising awareness of the humanitarian consequences of explosive remnants of war,

1. *Calls upon* all States that have not yet done so to take all measures to become parties, as soon as possible, to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects[1] and the Protocols

[1] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1342, No. 22495.

[2] Ibid., vol. 2260, No. 22495.

[3] Ibid., vol. 2048, No. 22495.

[4] Ibid., vol. 2024, No. 22495.

[5] Ibid., vol. 2399, No. 22495.

thereto, as amended, with a view to achieving the widest possible adherence to these instruments at an early date and so as to ultimately achieve their universality;

2. *Calls upon* all States parties to the Convention that have not yet done so to express their consent to be bound by the Protocols to the Convention and the amendment extending the scope of the Convention and the Protocols thereto to include armed conflicts of a non-international character;

3. *Emphasizes* the importance of the universalization of the Protocol on Explosive Remnants of War (Protocol V);[5]

4. *Welcomes* the additional ratifications and acceptances of or accessions to the Convention, as well as the consents to be bound by the Protocols thereto;

5. *Also welcomes* the adoption by the Third Review Conference of the High Contracting Parties to the Convention of a plan of action to promote universality of the Convention and the Protocols thereto,[6] and expresses appreciation for the continued efforts of the Secretary-General, as depositary of the Convention and the Protocols thereto, the Chair of the Meeting of the High Contracting Parties to the Convention, the President of the Fourth Conference of the High Contracting Parties to Protocol V and the President of the Twelfth Annual Conference of the High Contracting Parties to Amended Protocol II, on behalf of the High Contracting Parties, to achieve the goal of universality;

6. *Recalls* the decision of the Third Review Conference of the High Contracting Parties to the Convention to establish a sponsorship programme within the framework of the Convention,[7] and, with recognition of the value and importance of the programme, encourages States to contribute to the Sponsorship Programme;

7. *Welcomes* the decision of the 2010 Meeting of the High Contracting Parties to the Convention to convene the Fourth Review Conference of the High Contracting Parties to the Convention in Geneva from 14 to 25 November 2011;

8. *Acknowledges* the work of the Implementation Support Unit within the Geneva Branch of the Office for Disarmament Affairs of the Secretariat, which was established following a decision of the 2009 Meeting of the High Contracting Parties to the Convention;

9. *Welcomes* the commitment by States parties to continue to address the humanitarian problems caused by certain specific types of munitions in all their aspects, including cluster munitions, with a view to minimizing the humanitarian impact of these munitions;

10. *Also welcomes* the preparatory work for the Fourth Review Conference conducted by the Group of Governmental Experts of the High Contracting Parties to the Convention, acting under the overall responsibility of the President-designate, and notes that the issue of urgently addressing the humanitarian impact of cluster munitions, while striking a balance between military and humanitarian considerations, will be further addressed at the Fourth Review Conference in November 2011;

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[6] See CCW/CONF.III/11 (Part II), annex III.

[7] Ibid., annex IV.

11. *Further welcomes* the commitment of States parties to the Protocol on Explosive Remnants of War (Protocol V) to the effective and efficient implementation of the Protocol and the implementation of the decisions of the First and Second Conferences of the High Contracting Parties to the Protocol establishing a comprehensive framework for the exchange of information and cooperation,[8] and also welcomes the holding of the Meeting of Experts of the High Contracting Parties to the Protocol, in Geneva from 6 to 8 April 2011, as a mechanism for consultation and cooperation among the States parties;

12. *Notes* the decision of the Tenth Annual Conference of the High Contracting Parties to Amended Protocol II to establish an informal open-ended group of experts,[9] and welcomes the holding of the third session of the Group of Experts of the High Contracting Parties to Amended Protocol II, in Geneva on 4 and 5 April 2011, to exchange national practices and experiences and to assess the implementation of the Protocol;

13. *Also notes* that, in conformity with article 8 of the Convention, conferences may be convened to examine amendments to the Convention or to any of the Protocols thereto, to examine additional protocols concerning other categories of conventional weapons not covered by existing Protocols or to review the scope and application of the Convention and the Protocols thereto and to examine any proposed amendments or additional protocols;

14. *Requests* the Secretary-General to render the necessary assistance and to provide such services, including summary records, as may be required for the Fourth Review Conference of the High Contracting Parties to the Convention, to be held from 14 to 25 November 2011, and other annual conferences and expert meetings of the High Contracting Parties to Amended Protocol II and Protocol V, as well as for any continuation of the work after the meetings;

15. *Also requests* the Secretary-General, in his capacity as depositary of the Convention and the Protocols thereto, to continue to inform the General Assembly periodically, by electronic means, of ratifications and acceptances of and accessions to the Convention, its amended article 1[2] and the Protocols thereto;

16. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-seventh session the item entitled "Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects".

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[8] See CCW/P.V/CONF/2007/1 and Corr.1 and 2 and CCW/P.V/CONF/2008/12.

[9] See CCW/AP.II/CONF.10/2, para. 23.